Remarks

The present amendment is in response to the Office action dated March 21, 2005, where the Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 33. In the present amendment, claims 22 – 33 have been cancelled without prejudice and claim 1 has been amended. New claims 34 – 39 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1 – 21 and 34 – 39 are pending in the present application with claims 1, 13, and 34 being the independent claims. Reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1 – 21 and 34 – 39 in view of the amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

35 USC §102(e)

Pending claims 1 – 21 stand rejected under section 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,369,840 ("Barnett"). Applicant submits that the pending claims are presently in condition for allowance as each and every element of the pending claims are not disclosed by Barnett.

The claimed invention is directed toward an event tracking method that tracks events surrounding a user's interaction with network devices. The tracking mechanism includes event signals that are provided to an event tracking server by a client device. The event tracking server then stores data relevant to the particular event. More sophisticated embodiments of the invention employ event identifications and particular instructions to be carried out by the event tracking server in association with the presence of a specific event identifier.

In contrast, Barnett discloses a network based calendaring system that allows a user to login and manage a personal calendar and share that calendar with other users. A user can also view a directory of upcoming events broken down by category that are not on the user's personal calendar. The "events" of Barnett are not the same as the claimed "events" in the present application.

Specifically, in claim 1 an event signal comprises data that is descriptive of a user interaction with a server device of the computer network. Such an event signal is not contemplated by the calendaring system taught by Barnett. Nowhere does Barnett disclose that an event can be a user interaction with a server device of the computer network or that an event signal comprises data that is descriptive of such an interaction. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Barnett and Applicant believes that claim 1 and its dependent claims are presently in condition for allowance. A notice of allowance of at least claims 1 – 12 is therefore respectfully requested.

Furthermore, with respect to claim 3, Barnett's disclosure of a screen shot of a Login page at col. 8, line 60 – col. 9, line 15 does not fairly teach the claimed embedded tag of dependent claims 2 and 3. Specifically, the tag introduced in claim 2 *appears in the event signal* and denotes at least one item of data that is descriptive of the user interaction. Barnett does not teach such an event signal as set forth above and neither does Barnett teach that a tag denoting an item of data descriptive of the user interaction with a server device on the network. Moreover, Barnett nowhere suggests extracting such a tag as required by claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that claims 2 and 3 are presently in condition for allowance.

With respect to claims 4 and 5, Barnett's teaching that a user can login to the calendar server and manage a personal calendar and share that calendar with other users does not disclose or suggest that an event signal include an event ID that is used to retrieve a particular set of corresponding instructions, as required by dependent claim 4. A login system merely validates a username and password (or similar) combination – it does not contemplate embedding an event ID in an event signal so that specific instructions are retrieved that correspond to the event ID. Furthermore, Barnett's login system also does not teach that a list of event IDs is maintained with a set of instructions that correspond to each event ID, as required by claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 4 and 5 are presently in condition for allowance.

Regarding claim 6, Barnett discussed load balancing to the extent that the handling of a user session is directed to the previous server that the particular user was interacting with during that user's previous session. Barnett teaches that this is done in order to take advantage of a data cache that may contain information related to that user's session. (col. 5, lines 25 – 30). In contrast, claim 6 balances a load of received event signals among several gateway modules. Barnett's data caching does not fairly teach the claimed balancing of received event signals. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claim 6 is also presently in condition for allowance.

Regarding dependent claims 7 – 12, the rejection of these claims is grouped together with the rejection of independent claim 1 although the specific elements of these dependent claims that further refine and narrow the base claim are not individually addressed. Applicant asserts that the specific elements of these dependent claims are not taught by Barnett and respectfully requests allowance of dependent claims 7 – 12.

With respect to claims 13 – 21, these claims are directed to an embodiment of the invention where the event tracking information is included in a specially formatted web page. An example of this embodiment is illustrated in Fig. 4 and the corresponding description. Barnett provides no discussion of including event tracking information in a specially formatted web page. Moreover, nowhere does Barnett discuss specially formatted web pages in general and Barnett certainly makes no mention of formatting a web page in a special way in order to include event tracking information. Accordingly, Applicant believes that Barnett does not fairly teach or disclose the embodiment of the invention in claims 13 – 21 and a notice of allowance of claims 13 – 21 is respectfully requested.

New Claims 34 – 39

New independent claim 34 and dependent claims 35 – 39 are directed toward an embodiment of the invention where a client sends a request for a web page to a web server. In response to the web page request, the web server retrieves the content of the web page and sends the content to the client. The content of the web page, however, includes an instruction that causes the client to send a subsequent request for additional data to an event tracking server. The event tracking server receives the subsequent request from the client for additional data and parses the request to obtain certain event tracking information that is then stored by the event tracking server. The dependent claims further refine the invention claimed in independent claim 34.

Applicant believes that Barnett fails to teach the invention in independent claim 34 and accordingly considers claims 34 – 39 presently in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests a notice of allowance for claims 34 – 39.

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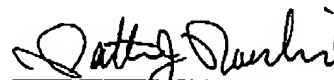21 Sep 2005 Reply to
21 Mar 2005 Office Action

Conclusion

If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding the above Amendments and Remarks, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: September 21, 2005   By: _____

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